TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, August 23, 1984 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended August 18 totaled an estimated 18.6 billion ton-miles, 13.5 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative traffic volume for the first 33 weeks of 1984 was an estimated 590.0 billion ton-miles, 15.6 percent above the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended August 18 totaled 410,774, up 7.4 percent from last year, and 2.2 percent higher than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 13.1 percent in the East, 3.6 percent in the South and 6.0 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week of 1983, 12 of the 21 commodity groups increased. Coal loadings totaled 131,791 cars, the highest individual week since the week ended November 21, 1981, and 19.6 percent above the comparable week of 1983. The continuation of heavy coal loadings is attributed to stockpiling in anticipation of a possible coal miners' strike this Fall. Fifteen of the 21 commodity groups showed increases over the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended August 11 totaled 50,900 cars, up 11.1 percent from the corresponding week of 1983, and 87,774 trailers and/or containers, 9.3 percent higher than last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 32 weeks of the year was 1,613,895 cars, 16.2 percent higher than last year, and 2,789,293 trailers and/or containers, up 16.3 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 8/18/84:

	Loadings in Week ended August 18, 1984		Change from Corresponding Week 1983			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	30,730	D	1,442	4.5	I	3,352	10.9
Other farm products	2,561	D	960	27.3	I	21	0.8
Metallic ores	19,032	I	2,620	16.0	I	1,592	8.4
Coal	131,791	I	21,606	19.6	I	982	0.7
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	12,834	I	2,227	21.0	I	29	0.2
Nonmetallic minerals	12,694	I	171	1.4	I	226	1.8
Grain mill products	10,224	D	1,932	15.9	D	18	0.2
Food and kindred products	10,848	D	946	8.0	I	475	4.4
Primary forest products	13,591	D	1,111	7.6	I	111	0.8
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,240	I	107	1.5	I	205	2.8
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,210	D	1,002	6.6	D	256	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	25,495	I	2,138	9.2	I	2,015	7.9
Petroleum products	4,566	I	45	1.0	D	81	1.8
Stone, clay and glass products	11,275	I	171	1.5	I	391	3.5
Coke	5,110	D	600	10.5	D	63	1.2
Metals and products	8,225	I	251	3.1	I	308	3.7
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,053	I	2,829	19.9	I	565	3.3
Waste and scrap materials	8,765	I	677	8.4	I	161	1.8
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	7,251	D	756	9.4	I	14	0.2
All other carloads	57,164	I	4,278	8.1	D	1,100	1.9
LCL traffic	115	D	148	56.3	D	7	4.5
Total Cars Loaded	410,774	I	28,223	7.4	I	8,922	2.2
Corresponding week of 1983	382,551						

	1984	1983	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (33 weeks)	13,018,949	11,676,935	I 11.5

Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
32 weeks ended August 11	571.4 (Rev.)	494.2	I 15.6
Week ended August 18	18.6	16.4	I 13.5
33 weeks cumulative	590.0	510.6	I 15.6

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